

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 258646

PLEASE PASS TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 31316 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL
EC CAPITALS, TOKYO 26 OCT 77

QUOTE UNCLAS PARIS 31316

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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TAGS: ETRD, EIND, FR

SUBJ: STEEL: JACQUES FERRY ON ANTI-DUMPING

REF: A) PARIS 2991; B) STATE 254415

SUMMARY. JACQUES FEY, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH
STEEL INSTITUTE AND EUROFER, HAS LAUNCHED AN ANTI
ANTI-DUMPING CAMPAIGN. IN AN OCTOBER 26 ARTICLE, HE
ASSERTS THAT "THE GENERALIZATION OF ANTI-DUMPING
ACTIONS, AS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO THE
AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY, IS A WELL-DISGUISED BUT
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NEVERTHELESS INJURIOUS FORM OF NEW PROTECTIONISM".
TEXT OF ARTICLE AIRMAILED BEIGEL, EUR/WE.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN OCTOBER 26 INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE
ECONOMIC DAILY "LES ECHOS", FERRY COMMENTED
CRITICALLY ON US ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FOREIGN STEEL MANUFACTURERS. (SEE REF A FOR MORE DETAILED COMMENTS BY FERRY ON THE FRENCH STEEL SITUATION.) WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS "PROVISIONALLY" REFUSED TO ACCEPT TRADE LIMITATIONS, FERRY CHARACTERIZES THE PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-DUMPING PROCEDURES AS A FORM OF NEW PROTECTIONISM. HE EMPHASIZES THAT THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE TO A LARGE DEGREE ARBITRARY IN THAT BONDS ARE IMPOSED FROM THE TIME THAT AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION IS OPENED (SIC). FERRY ALSO STATES THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS MAY "DANGEROUSLY ALTER" TRADING RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US.

2. HE REITERATED THAT IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF EUROFER HE HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED IN ROME AT THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE MEETING THAT THE EC OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE STEEL PROBLEM "TO AVOID THE DANGER OF AN OPEN TRADE WAR". THE INITIAL REACTION OF COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON TO FERRY'S PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WAS INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED; VRAS ON STEEL SALES TO THE US WOULD ONLY BE "ATEMPORARY SOLUTION", ACCORDING TO FERRY. FERRY AGREES WITH DAVIGNON THAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION MUST BE BASED ON A GLOBAL STEEL POLICY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE MAJOR STRUCTURAL

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CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE WORLD STEEL INDUSTRY. TO THIS END, AN INTERNATIONAL STEEL CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY.

3. FERRY CONCLUDES THAT: "THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY, WHICH IS COMPETITIVE, ABANDON ITS POSITION IN THE AMERICAN MARKET. IT IS THIS RIGHTFUL SHARE WHICH WE SHOULD REALISTICALLY SEEK."

HARTMAN

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